

What the Administration Has Done for the Farmer

the present by adding to it a provision that in case the methods of accommodation now provided for you should fail, a full public investigation of the merits of every such dispute shall be instituted and completed before a strike or lock-out may lawfully be attempted.

"And, sixth, the lodgment in the hands of the executive of the power, in case of military necessity to take control of such portions and such rolling stock of the railways of the country as may be required for military use, and to operate them for military purposes, with authority to draft into the military service of the United States such train crews and administrative officials as the circumstances require for their safe and efficient use.

"This last suggestion I make because we can not in any circumstances suffer the nation to be hampered in the essential matter of national defense. At the present moment circumstances render this duty particularly obvious. Almost the entire military force of the nation is stationed upon the Mexican border to guard our territory against hostile raids. It must be supplied and steadily supplied with whatever it needs for its maintenance and efficiency. If it should be necessary for purposes of national defense to transfer any portion of it upon short notice to some other part of the country, for reasons now unforeseen, ample means of transportation must be available and available without delay. The power conferred in this matter should be carefully and explicitly limited to cases of military necessities, but in all such cases it should be made clear and ample.

"There is one other thing we should do if we are true champions of arbitration. We should make all arbitral awards, judgments by record of a court of law, in order that their interpretation and enforcement may lie, not with one of the parties to the arbitration, but with an impartial and authoritative tribunal.

"These things I urge upon you, not in haste, nor merely as a means of meeting a present emergency, but as permanent and necessary additions to the law of the land, suggested, indeed, by circumstances we had hoped never to see, but imperative as well as just, if such emergencies are to be prevented in the future. I feel that no extended argument is needed to commend them to your favorable consideration. They demonstrate themselves. The time and the occasion only emphasize their importance. We need them now, and we shall continue to need them."

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The present democratic administration has been conspicuous for its work to advance the agricultural interests of the United States. The record is set forth briefly and effectively in a letter written by the President to Congressman A. F. Lever, chairman of the committee on agriculture of the house of representatives, as follows:

"The White House, Washington, Aug. 11, 1916.—My dear Mr. Lever: It has given me much satisfaction to approve today the bill making appropriations for the department of agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1917, and for other purposes, because the bill not only makes every generous provision for the improvement of farm production in the nation and for investigations and demonstrations in the field of the marketing of farm crops and of the organization of rural life, but also contains three well-conceived measures designed to improve market practices and the storage and financing of staple crops. As the passage of this bill marks the practical completion of an important part of the programme for the betterment of rural life which was mapped out at the beginning of the administration, I feel that I can not let the occasion pass without conveying to you and to your associates in both houses my appreciation of the service rendered to the nation in strengthening its great agricultural foundations.

RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

"The record, legislative as well as administrative, is a remarkable one. It speaks for itself and needs only to be set forth:

"First—Appreciation of the importance of agriculture has been shown through greatly and intelligently increased appropriations for its support.

"Second—Particular pains have been taken to foster production by every promising means, and careful thought has been given especially to the matter of increasing the meat supply of the nation.

"Third—Greatly increased provision has been made, through the enactment of the Co-operative Agricultural Extension Act, for conveying agricultural information to farmers and for inducing them to apply it. This piece of legislation is one of the most significant and far-reaching measures for the education of adults ever adopted by any government. It provides for co-operation between the states and the federal government. This is a highly important and significant principle. When the act is in full operation there will be expended annually under its terms, from federal and state sources alone, a total of over \$8,600,000 in the direct education of the farmer; and this amount is being and will be increasingly supplemented by contributions from local sources. It will permit the placing in each of the 2,850 rural counties of the nation two farm demonstrators and specialists who will assist the demonstrators in the more difficult problems confronting them.

"Fourth—Systematic provision for the first time has been made for the solution of problems in that important half of agriculture which concerns distribution—marketing, rural finance and rural organization.

BETTER MARKETING CONDITIONS

"Fifth—Provision was made promptly for the creation of an Office of Markets and Rural Organization and the appropriations for this office, including those for enforcing new laws designed to promote better marketing, have been increased to \$1,200,000. The more difficult problems of marketing are being investigated and plans are in operation for furnishing assistance to producers of perishables through a market news service. A similar service for livestock interests will be inaugurated during the year.

"Sixth—The problem of securing the uniform grading of staple crops, of regulating dealings and traffic in them, of developing a better system of warehouses, and of providing more available collateral for farm loans has been successfully dealt with.

"Seventh—Under the Cotton Futures Act standards for cotton have been established, the operations of the futures exchanges have been put under supervision, and the sale of cotton has been placed on a firmer basis.

"Eighth—The United States Grain Standards Act will secure uniformity in the grading of

grains, enable the farmer to obtain fairer prices for his product and afford him an incentive to raise better grades of grain.

"Ninth—The United States Warehouse Act will enable the department of agriculture to license bonded warehouses in the various states. It will lead to the development of better storage facilities for staple crops and will make possible the issuance of reliable warehouse receipts which will be widely and easily negotiable.

GOOD ROAD BUILDING

"Tenth—Of no less importance for agriculture and for the national development is the federal aid road act. This measure will conduce to the establishment of more effective highway machinery in each state, strongly influence the development of good road building along right lines, stimulate larger production and better marketing, promote a fuller and more attractive rural life, add greatly to the convenience and economic welfare of all the people and strengthen the national foundations. The act embodies sound principles of road legislation and will safeguard the expenditure of the funds arising under the act not only, but will also result in the more efficient use of the large additional sums made available by states and localities.

"Eleventh—The Federal Reserve Act benefits the farmer, as it does all the other people of the nation, by guaranteeing better banking, safeguarding the credit structure of the country, and preventing panics. It takes particular note of the special needs of the farmer by making larger provision for loans through national banks on farm mortgages and by giving farm paper a maturity period of six months.

"Twelfth—It was essential, however, that banking machinery be devised which would reach intimately into the rural districts, that it should operate on terms suited to the farmer's needs, and should be under sympathetic management. The need for machinery which would introduce business methods into farm finance, bring order out of chaos, reduce the cost of handling farm loans, place upon the market mortgages which would be a safe investment for private funds, attract into agricultural operations a fair share of the capital of the nation, and lead to a reduction of interest. These needs and these ideals have been met by the enactment of the federal farm loan act.

"I am glad to have had an opportunity to take part in the execution of this large programme, which I believe will result in making agriculture more profitable and country life more comfortable and attractive and therefore, insure the retention in rural districts of an efficient and contented population. Faithfully yours,

"WOODROW WILSON."

Hon. A. F. Lever, Chairman Committee on Agriculture, House of Representatives.

AS INTERPRETED BY MR. HARDING

Senator Warren B. Harding, before the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary club at San Antonio, Tex., Jan. 6, 1915, made a speech whose general character can be judged from the following passage:

"I am unalterably of the belief that the United States must never seek territorial aggrandizement by force of arms. But there is destiny in the affairs of nations. You have your Alamo here as evidence of what men will do for the sake of principle and the Civil war was necessary to settle a great issue. The wonderfully rich resources of Mexico will never be brought into service and the country will never come into its own until it has been brought under the civilizing influence of the United States flag. I am not in a position to say how that end should be accomplished, but something must be done."

No "territorial aggrandizement by force of arms," but we can find some other excuse for war and then let nature take her course. A fight for principle first and territorial aggrandizement afterward.

Senator Harding has twice appeared this year as the spokesman of his party in utterances of the highest party importance. Did he represent the republican purpose in this San Antonio address? Did he represent Mr. Hughes' purpose? —St. Louis Post-Dispatch.